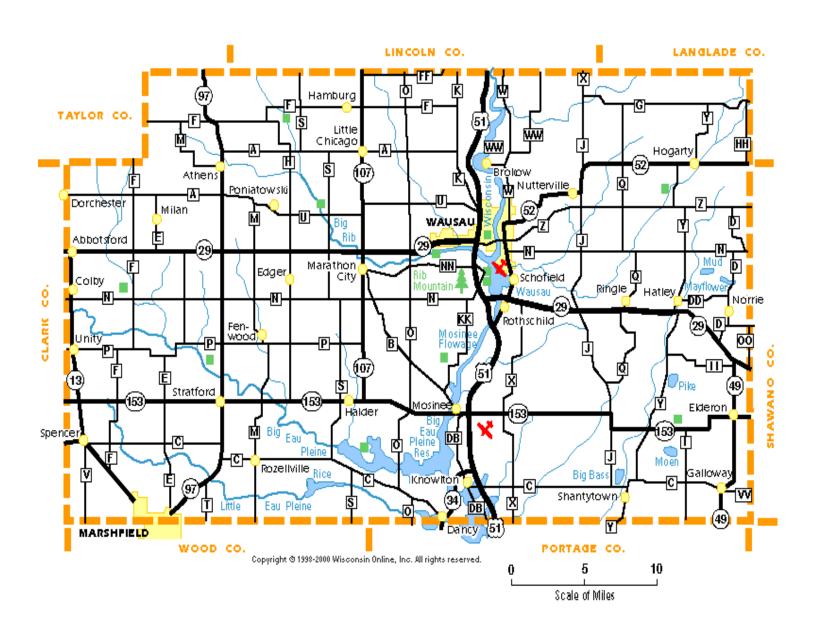
MARATHON COUNTY TORNADO GUIDE

(1950-2015)



MARATHON COUNTY

EVENT	DATE			TIME	F/EF	WIDTH	PATH	
#	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	(LST)	DIRECTION / LOCATION	RANK	(YARDS)	(MILES)
1	6	25	1950	2110	2 W Unity - 3 NE Abbotsford	2	20	3.0
2	6	20	1954	0230	Rothschild to 6 NE Mosinee	2	70	6.3
3	6	4	1958	1930	6 SE Chippewa Falls to 2 NW Athens	3	880	59.2
4	5	4	1959	1030	Wausau	1	200	1.0
5	11	15	1960	1425	Chili to near Rib Mountain	2	100	36.0
6	9	3	1961	0010	Fenwood	2	35	2.0
7	9	3	1961	0100	Athens	1	35	2.0
8	5	8	1964	1750	7 ESE Knowlton - 5 W Elderon	2	500	12.0
9	8	19	1968	1730	4 W Fenwood - 11 E Fenwood	2	75	14.3
10	9	28	1971	1415-1605	3 NE Brokaw - 6 NE Hogarty	3	200	18.0
11	9	28	1971	1600	1 NE Abbotsford - Merrill	3	300	11.6
12	6	18	1973	1100	2 W Athens	1	200	2.0
13	4	12	1974	1405	5 W Athens	2	150	2.0
14	6	13	1976	2000	2 W Hogarty - Elton	1	50	4.0
15	8	31	1977	1815	1 SW Stratford - Wausau	3	1000	27.0
16	7	15	1982	1915	Mayflower Lake	1	50	0.7
17	7	3	1983	1735	6 W Unity - Cherokee	2	55	6.0
18	6	26	1984	1655	13 N Wausau - Texas	1	100	8.0
19	9	24	1984	1650	13.5 WSW Wausau - Wausau	2	150	12.0
20	7	2	1987	1710-1715	Pike Lake	1	75	0.2
21	5	8	1988	1710	4.5 SW Hadler - Rib Falls	2	250	13.0
22	9	19	1988	1637	1 W Edgar	0	25	0.1
23	6	12	1990	1835	2 W Stratford	1	25	0.1
24	7	19	1992	1554	2 WSW Stratford	1	400	0.3
25	7	8	1994	1400	3 NW Elderon	1	75	0.2
26	8	7	1996	0145-0149	6.5 N Stratford - 2.5 NNW Fernwood	2	200	2.5
27	8	7	1996	0146-0147	1 N - 1.2 NE Stratford	1	100	0.2
28	8	7	1996	0219-0221	4 SW Shantytown - Shantytown	1	100	0.4
29	7	16	1997	1440-1445	8.5 NNE - 6.9 NE Nutterville	2	100	2.0
30	7	16	1997	1500-1502	4 SW - 4.2 SW Hogarty	0	75	0.2
31	7	16	1997	1500-1501	3 N Sunset	0	15	0.1
32	7	16	1997	1509-1511	2 NE - 1.8 NE Ringle	1	50	0.2
33	7	16	1997	1520-1522	2 N - 1.8 N Elderon	0	75	0.2
34	5	31	1998	0020-0021	4 WSW Mosinee	0	50	0.2
35	4	18	2002	1813-1827	3 SE Stratford - 6 NW Mosinee	1	100	14.0

EVENT	DATE			TIME		F SCALE	WIDTH	PATH
#	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	(LST)	DIRECTION / LOCATION	RANK	(YARDS)	(MILES)
36	4	18	2002	1832	6 SSW Wausau Airport	0	25	0.1
37	7	30	2002	1822-1828	3 W - 0.8 W Central Wisconsin Airport	0	100	2.2
38	9	2	2002	1704-1706	5.2 W - 5 W Athens	0	75	0.2
39	9	2	2002	1735-1743	6 NW Wausau - 4 NE Wausau	1	200	5.0
40	6	4	2005	1527-1529	4 W - 4.5 WNW Edgar	0	75	1.2
41	6	4	2005	1539-1542	1 W - 1.5 NW Athens	0	100	1.3
42	6	4	2005	1706	4 S Athens	0	25	0.1
43	6	4	2005	1720	3 W Marathon	0	25	0.1
44	6	4	2005	1918	7 S Hogarty	0	25	0.1
45	6	10	2005	1303	4 W Mosinee	0	20	0.1
46	6	7	2007	1501-1514	1.4 W Peplin to 0.9 N Pike Lake	2	225	7.3
47	5	25	2008	2000-2001	3 ENE Knowlton	0	20	0.1
48	7	29	2008	1527	3.6 NW Granite Heights	0	15	0.1
49	7	29	2008	1559-1600	6.3 NNW of Kalinke	0	25	0.1
50	4	10	2011	1708-1741	2 N Hamburg – 1 SW Bloomville	0	150	21.3
51	5	24	2012	1801-1807	3.7 SSE – 4.8 ENE Marathon	0	75	5.9
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Event 1: June 25, 1950

The F/EF-2 tornado touched down 3 miles west of Colby and travelled to three miles northeast of Abbotsford around 9 pm CST. There was no additional information on this tornado. The tornado travelled approximately 3 miles with a maximum width of 20 yards.

Event 2: June 20, 1954

The F/EF-2 tornado developed around 2:30 am CST in Rothschild. The tornado travelled approximately 6.3 miles and dissipated six miles northeast of Mosinee around 2:40 am CST. The maximum width of the tornado was 70 yards. Another tornado was reported in Brothertown in Calumet County around 4 am CST.

Event 3: June 4, 1958

According to several sources, it appears that there was a long tracked F/EF-3 tornado that developed 6 miles southeast of Chippewa Falls in Chippewa County around 7:30 pm CST. The tornado then moved to the east northeast for just over 59 miles before dissipating 2 miles northwest of Athens in Marathon County around 8:06 pm CST. The tornado reached a maximum width of 880 yards. Newspaper accounts indicated there were three separate tornadoes during this event. The tornado or tornadoes killed 28 people across western Wisconsin. Four people died in Chippewa Falls and near Menominie while two deaths were reported Knapp and Boyd in western Wisconsin.

Event 4: May 4, 1959

The F/EF-1 tornado was reported to touch down near Wausau around 10:30 am CST. The tornado was 200 yards wide and travelled a mile before dissipating near Wausau.

Event 5: November 15, 1960

The F/EF-2 tornado developed near Chili in southeast Clark County. The tornado travelled for 36 miles into central Marathon County around 2:25 pm CST where the tornado dissipated near Rib Mountain. The tornado reached a maximum width of 100 yards. Main damage with the storm occurred near Chili and near the Town of Rib Mountain.

Event 6: September 3, 1961

The F/EF-2 tornado touched down near Fenwood around 12:10 am CST and travelled about 2 miles. The tornado was 35 yards wide. Damage was confined to farm buildings and crops in rural western Marathon County.

Event 7: September 3, 1961

The F/EF-1 tornado touched down near Athens around 1 am CST. The tornado was 35 yards wide and was on the ground for 2 miles.

Event 8: May 8, 1964

The F/EF-2 tornado touched down 7 miles east southeast of Knowlton around 5:50 pm CST. The tornado travelled about twelve miles to 5 miles west of Elderon. The tornado had a maximum width of five hundred yards.

Event 9: August 19, 1968

The F/EF-2 tornado form about 4 miles east of Fenwood near County Trunk P just west of Highway 97 around 5:30 pm CST. The tornado travelled just over fourteen miles to the east before dissipating about eleven miles east of Fenwood. The maximum width of the tornado was 75 yards. Twenty-five barns mostly on the north side of County Trunk P were flattened. Damage was estimated at more than one million dollars.

Event 10: September 28, 1971

A cold front moving through the state triggered scattered thunderstorms across the state. On this date, two long tracked F/EF-3 tornadoes were noted from near Stanley in western Wisconsin to Oconto County. The first tornado touched down 23 miles northeast of Eau Claire just south of Boyd and Stanley in Chippewa County around 2 pm CST. The tornado continued just south of Owen, north of Curtiss and south of Dorchester in Clark County. The tornado then moved into Marathon County south of Athens then weakened over Hamburg before finally dissipating just north of Merrill in Lincoln County around 4:05 pm CST. The tornado reached a maximum width of 300 yards and travelled 75 miles before dissipating. Damage was estimated near two million dollars.

Event 11: September 28, 1971

The second F/EF-3 tornado developed over the town of Hewitt northeast of Wausau in Marathon County around 4 pm CST. The town hall and four barns were destroyed in Hewitt. The tornado continued east northeast into Langlade County, passing about 6 miles south of Antigo and moved across the extreme northwest corner of Menominee County just south of White Lake. The tornado moved into Oconto County near Mountain, and then into Marinette County to Middle Inlet where the tornado dissipated around 5:20 pm CST. The tornado travelled 78 miles and reached a maximum width of 300 yards. The most severe damage occurred at Mountain where damage to buildings and trailers were estimated at \$200,000 dollars. Extensive damage to property and trees was reported in the Boulder Lake area where the lake level was reported to have dropped 5 inches. One person was injured at White Lake and four injuries were noted at Mountain, none seriously.

Event 12: June 18, 1973

The F/EF-1 tornado touched down on the Brunke Farm 2 miles west of Athens around 11 am CST. The tornado was 200 yards wide and travelled east for two miles before dissipating.

Event 13: April 12, 1974

The F/EF-2 tornado briefly touched down 5 miles west of Athens around 2:05 pm CST. The tornado travelled 2 miles and reached a maximum width of 150 yards before dissipating. One barn was destroyed and wires down. Two horses in the field were rolled over by the tornado.

Event 14: June 13, 1976

The F/EF-1 tornado hit first about two miles west of Hogarty around 8 pm CST. The tornado skipped along and moved east northeast into extreme southwest Langlade County near Elmhurst and then continued to near Elton before dissipating at 8:10 pm. The tornado was 50 yards wide and travelled 21.3 miles. The tornado travelled 4.0 miles across Marathon County. Some sheds were destroyed while windows of some buildings were damaged. Tree limbs and power lines were downed by the tornado.

Event 15: August 31, 1977

On the evening of the 31st, a devastating F/EF-3 tornado spun out a 27 mile path of destruction across Marathon County around 6:15 pm CST. The first sighting of the tornado came seven miles southwest of Fenwood. The funnel base was described as reaching tree top levels as it downed barns in the area. The tornado continued to near Marathon City where more barns were destroyed. The tornado caused extensive damage to Ginseng crops in the area. In Rib Mountain, 15 homes were demolished and 30 others were severely damaged. The storm moved into southwest Wausau damaging a mill and lumber yard. As the funnel cloud moved across the southern end of Wausau, brief touchdowns were noted at Grand Avenue and at Tenth and Manson Streets. The funnel lifted and moved eastward out of the city limits of Wausau, touching down for a final time on Linden Street. Barns and sheds were destroyed on Linden. The tornado reached a maximum width of a thousand yards. Property damage was close to two million dollars.

Event 16: July 15, 1982

The F/EF-1 tornado swept southeast from May Flower Lake into rural areas at the south end of the lake in Marathon County around 7:15 pm CST. The tornado was 50 yards wide and travelled three quarters of a mile. Several trees were downed and one residence was damaged.

Event 17: July 3, 1983

The F/EF-2 tornado was first spotted near a home 6 miles west of Unity in Clark County around 5:35 pm CST. The tornado skipped across Clark County, skirting just north of Unity and crossed Highway 13 into Marathon County. In Marathon County, the tornado struck a farm just east of Highway 13, flipping a truck and camper as well as ripping a shed off its foundation. The tornado then struck a farm one mile east of Colby and just south of Highway N destroying many trees. The next farm to the east was struck and two hay wagons were flipped over and a chimney was knocked off. The tornado hit a farm three miles east of Colby and one mile south of Highway N. A large barn was pushed off its foundation. The tornado moved across Highway F just south of Cherokee, and into an 18 acre wooded lot destroying fifty large trees. Finally, a farm just east of Cherokee and south of Highway N took off the top of a silo. There were no further reports to the east. The tornado travelled approximately 6 miles and had a maximum width of fifty-five yards.

Event 18: June 26, 1984

The F/EF-1 tornado touched 13 miles north of Wausau around 4:55 pm CST. The tornado was 100 yards wide and skipped eastward for 8 miles before dissipating in the town of Texas. The tornado damaged four homes and three farm buildings. It also destroyed a few sheds and uprooted trees.

Event 19: September 24, 1984

The F/EF-2 tornado touched down thirteen and a half miles west southwest of Wausau around 4:50 pm CST, or one mile south of Highway P and one mile west of Highway 107. The tornado was 150 yards wide and travelled 12 miles before lifting on the east side of the Wisconsin River near Wausau. The tornado caused \$2.2 million dollars in damage in the townships of Emmett, Mosinee, Marathon, and Rib Mountain. Three homes were destroyed, eight sustained major damage and several barns and sheds were leveled. Numerous trees were reported down. The storm was accompanied by baseball size hail one mile northeast of Rothschild.

Event 20: July 2, 1987

A brief tornado touched down just east of Pike Lake around 5:10 pm CST. The F/EF-1 tornado was 75 yards wide and travelled two tenths of a mile before dissipating around 5:15 pm CST. Numerous trees were twisted and knocked down causing damage to seven homes, a boat trailer and one boat foundation.

Event 21: May 8, 1988

The F/EF-2 tornado developed four and a half miles southwest of Hadler around 5:10 pm CST. The tornado travelled 13 miles and reached a maximum width of 250 yards before dissipating in Rib Falls. Two people were injured in the town of Emmet when their mobile home trailer was rolled upside down. In all, three mobile homes, six large barns, three machine sheds and silos were destroyed with numerous buildings damaged. Thirty-nine acres of ginseng racks on sixteen farms were knocked off their posts causing \$450,000 in damage. The total cost of the tornado in Marathon County was over one million dollars in damage.

Event 22: September 19, 1988

A brief tornado (F/EF-0) developed one mile west of Edgar at 4:37 pm CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and only travelled a tenth of a mile. Little damage noted in the monthly storm report.

Event 23: June 12, 1990

The F/EF-1 tornado hit a farm 2 miles west of Stratford around 6:35 pm CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and was only on the ground for a tenth of a mile. According to newspaper reports, there was damage to some farm structures.

Event 24: July 19, 1992

The F/EF-1 tornado formed 2 miles west southwest of Stratford around 3:54 pm CST. The tornado was 400 yards wide and was on the ground for only a quarter of a mile. The damage from the tornado included: a destroyed barn, two houses and one garage damaged while several trees were downed.

Event 25: July 8, 1994

The F/EF-1 tornado touched 3 miles northwest of Elderon around 2 pm CST. The tornado was 75 yards wide and only travelled two tenths of a mile. The tornado moved a garage off its foundation and wrecked a house roof and shed three miles northwest of Elderon.

Event 26: August 7, 1996

The F/EF-2 tornado touched down six and a half miles north of Stratford around 1:45 am CST, tearing the top portion of a home off, flattened a garage, and snapped off several large trees. The tornado continued east northeast for two and a half miles and reached a maximum width of 200 yards before dissipating two and a half miles north northwest of Fenwood around 1:49 am CST. As the storm moved east, there was damage to a storage shed and thirty trees on a farm. A dozen of Ginseng shelters were thrown about. The tornado was not on the ground for the entire path.

Event 27: August 7, 1996

A brief F/EF-1 tornado touched down one mile north of Stratford around 1:46 am CST. The tornado was 100 yards wide and only travelled two tenths of a mile before dissipating 1.2 miles northeast of Stratford round 1:47 am CST. The tornado snapped off numerous large trees, some of which fell on the top of homes. In addition: a barn was flattened, a semi-trailer was flipped over and a car moved 75 feet.

Event 28: August 7, 1996

The F/EF-1 tornado touched down four tenths of a mile southwest of Shantytown around 2:19 am CST. The tornado was 100 yards wide and travelled nearly a half mile to Shantytown before dissipating around 2:21 am CST. The tornado tore a 100 yard swath through a cornfield. In Shantytown, the tornado tore the roof and garage off a home. Pieces of the roof were found one-quarter of a mile away from the home.

Event 29: July 16, 1997

The F/EF-2 tornado touched down eight and a half miles northeast of Nutterville around 2:40 pm CST. The storm travelled just over three miles and reached a maximum width of 100 yards before dissipating 6.9 miles northeast of Nutterville around 2:45 pm CST. The tornado damaged several homes, vehicles and silos, and destroyed numerous barns, sheds and crops. Twenty head of dairy cattle were killed or had to be destroyed. There were two other tornadoes with this tornadic supercell. Total damage to crops and property from the five tornadoes, hail and straight-line winds in Marathon County alone topped \$10 million.

Event 30: July 16, 1997

The F/EF-0 tornado developed 4 miles southwest of Hogarty around 3 pm CST. The tornado was 75 yards wide and travelled two tenths of a mile before dissipating 4.2 miles southwest of Hogarty around 3:01 pm CST.

Event 31: July 16, 1997

The F/EF-0 tornado touched down 3 miles north of Sunset around 3 pm CST. The tornado was 15 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile before dissipating at 3:01 pm CST.

Event 32: July 16, 1997

The F/EF-1 tornado briefly touched down two miles northeast of Ringle around 3:09 pm CST. The tornado was 50 yards wide and only travelled two tenths of a mile before dissipating 1.8 miles northeast of Ringle around 3:11 pm CST.

Event 33: July 16, 1997

The F/EF-0 tornado touched down 2 miles north of Elderon around 3:20 pm CST. The tornado was 75 yards wide and travelled two tenths of a mile before dissipating 1.8 miles north of Elderon around 3:22 pm CST.

Event 34: May 31, 1998

A brief F/EF-0 tornado touched down 4 miles west southwest of Mosinee at 12:20 am CST. The tornado was 50 yards wide and was on the ground for two tenths of a mile before it dissipated 3.8 miles west southwest of Mosinee at 12:21 am CST.

Event 35: April 18, 2002

The F/EF-1 tornado formed 3 miles southeast of Stratford around 6:13 pm CST. The tornado was 100 yards wide and travelled 14 miles before dissipating 6 miles northwest of Mosinee around 6:27 pm CST. The tornado downed hundreds of trees, while numerous barns and farm sheds were destroyed by a combination of the tornado and straight line winds. Plows had to be used to clear trees from some of the roads.

Event 36: April 18, 2002

A brief F/EF-0 tornado touched down 6 miles south southwest of the Wausau Airport in Marathon County around 6:32 pm CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. The tornado snapped several trees.

Event 37: July 30, 2002

The F/EF-0 tornado developed 3 miles west of the Central Wisconsin Airport at 6:22 pm CST. The tornado was 100 yards wide and travelled just over 2 miles on the ground before dissipating eight tenths of a mile west of the Central Wisconsin Airport at 6:28 pm CST. The tornado caused significant tree damage on a hill east of the Wisconsin River.

Event 38: September 2, 2002

The F/EF-0 tornado touched down 5.2 miles west of Athens at 5:04 pm CST. The tornado was 75 yards wide and was on the ground for two tenths of a mile before dissipating at 5:06 pm CST. The tornado caused minimal damage.

Event 39: September 2, 2002

The F/EF-1 tornado developed 6 miles northwest of Wausau around 5:35 pm CST. The tornado was 200 yards wide and was on the ground for five miles before dissipating 4 miles northeast of Wausau around 5:43 pm CST. The tornado destroyed two barns, a garage and a shed. It also snapped hundreds of trees, heavily damaged 6 homes and caused minor damage to 25 others. At least two vehicles traveling on Highway 51 were blown off the road. A trailer being towed by one of the vehicles was blown over and a large road sign hit the vehicle. The driver was injured and transported to the hospital.

Event 40: June 4, 2005

The F/EF-0 touched down 4 miles west of Edgar at 3:27 pm CST. The tornado was 75 yards wide and was on the ground for 1.2 miles before dissipating four and a half miles west northwest of Edgar at 3:29 pm CST. No damage was noted in the month storm report for this tornado.

Event 41: June 4, 2005

The F/EF-0 touched down a mile west of Athens at 3:39 pm CST. The tornado was 100 yards wide and was on the ground for 1.3 miles before the tornado dissipated a mile and a half northwest of Athens at 3:42 pm CST. The tornado downed some trees, flattened a barn and tore the roof from another barn.

Event 42: June 4, 2005

The F/EF-0 touched down 4 miles south of Athens at 5:06 pm CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. The monthly local storm report did not indicate any damage from this tornado.

Event 43: June 4, 2005

The F/EF-0 touched down 3 miles west of Marathon at 5:20 pm CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. The monthly local storm report did not indicate any damage from this tornado.

Event 44: June 4, 2005

The F/EF-0 touched down 7 miles south of Hogarty at 7:18 pm CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. The monthly local storm report did not indicate any damage from this tornado.

Event 45: June 10, 2005

The F/EF-0 tornado touched down 4 miles west of Mosinee at 1:03 pm CST. The tornado was 20 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile. No damage was noted in the monthly storm data.

Event 46: June 7, 2007

There were five tornadoes on this date across north central and northeast Wisconsin. The F/EF-2 tornado developed nine tenths of a mile west Peplin around 3:01 pm CST. The tornado travelled just over 7 miles and reached a maximum width of 225 yards before it dissipated nearly a mile north of Pike Lane around 3:14 pm CST. At least 8 homes, 10 barns, and numerous trees were damaged.

Event 47: May 25, 2008

The F/EF-0 tornado touched down 3 miles east northeast of Knowlton at 8 pm CST. The tornado was 10 yards wide and was on the ground for a tenth of a mile before dissipating at 8:01 pm CST. Several apple trees were damaged in a narrow path. A pine tree fell on a shed as well. The tornado was on the ground for less than 30 seconds.

Event 48: July 29, 2008

The F/EF-0 tornado briefly touched down 3.6 miles northwest of Granite Heights at 3:27 pm CST. The tornado was 15 yards wide and travelled a tenth of a mile. Law enforcement witnessed the brief tornado touchdown north of Brokaw near the Lincoln County border. No damage was reported.

Event 49: July 29, 2008

The F/EF-0 tornado briefly touched down 6.2 miles north northwest of Kalinke at 3:59 pm CST. The tornado was 25 yards wide and travelled a quarter of a mile before dissipating at 4 pm CST. The tornado touched down just south of County Line Road near County Road Q. Several trees in an open field were knocked over.

Event 50: April 10, 2011

The F/EF-3 tornado developed about 2 miles north of Hamburg at 5:08 CST pm and moved northeast into Lincoln County at 5:10 pm CST. Pine trees were uprooted and large branches were broken in the path of the storm. One house sustained damage to its siding and several barns were blown down or lost their roofs in Marathon County. The tornado was rated an F/EF-0 in Marathon County. The average width of the tornado in Marathon County was 100 yards. The tornado reached F/EF-3 intensity on the north side of Merrill in Lincoln County at approximately 5:22 pm CST where 22 homes and 7 businesses were destroyed. Several homes lost nearly all exterior and some interior walls. In addition, 22 homes and one business sustained major damage, and 20 homes and four businesses sustained minor damage. A 67 year old male was thrown over 200 feet from his bedroom and suffered broken ribs, a ruptured spleen and a bruised lung. Another person sustained minor injuries. The tornado tore a path over 20 miles long in Lincoln County before dissipating. The maximum width of the tornado was six tenths of a mile (1050 yards) wide. The average width was about 400 yards.



Event 51: May 24, 2012

The F/EF-0 tornado formed 3.7 miles south southeast of Marathon at 601 pm CST and rapidly move northeast before dissipating 4.8 miles east northeast of Marathon at 6:07 pm. About 100 trees sustained large broken branches or were snapped by the tornado. No structures were damaged. The average path width was 50 yards.



Photo by: Bob Tesmer